

Weekly Column for March 17, 2005

Happy Saint Patrick's Day. And Happy March Madness to all you sports nuts out there.

Obviously there is quite the Irish population in Troy, so I'm sure there will be many people out on the town Thursday night, and this weekend, in celebration and honor of Saint Patrick. I have plans myself to attend the Friends of Saint Patrick Dinner at the Society of the Friends of Saint Patrick, and it should be a great time.

This past weekend, the City was host of a wonderful event at the Arts Center for a book signing by Maura Shaw, whose latest novel is getting great reviews. I was reading about the book a few weeks ago and found this tidbit on the Internet:

All is blooming in County Clare, Ireland in the spring of 1846, including seventeen-year-old Margaret Meehan. She is sure the heart of handsome rebel Tom Roidan is hers and he will soon take her hand. When not practicing the ancient art of the Keeners, singing and chanting songs of lament for the dead with Nuala Lynch, Margaret dreams and plans with her best friend, Kitty Dooley, of a cottage across the road from each other and their children playing in the lane.

But it is 1846, the year of the blight. The potato blight and famine will soon shatter her dreams. The devastation has her keening daily for friends, family, strangers, and her beloved County Clare.

Most of her family is gone. Kitty is a broken shell. Nuala has keened her last lament. Tom's Rebel activities have made him a wanted man. It's to America for Margaret Meehan. She flees with Tom to Troy, New York. With a heart that keens for County Clare and a young girl's dreams, she will carve a new life in a strange land with the man she loves.

Once I saw the Troy, New York on there I knew I had to read it. I was even lucky enough to have someone pick up an autographed copy this weekend. Just in time for Saint Patrick's Day.

Enjoy your weekend, which also happens to be the first day of spring. It'll soon be warm; at least that's what we're all thinking.

Talk to you next week.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy